



Applicant(s): Minotti, et al.

Examiner: Khare, D.

Application No.: 09/954,953

Group Art Unit: 1623

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Dated: April 23, 2003

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Dated: April 23, 2003

Signature: Barbara Kemmlei

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231-0001

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2003, a reply to which is due April 23, 2003. In view of the remarks below, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Specifically, the Examiner states that Claims 15-17 are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Applicants' Response to Rejection of Claims 1-14 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,908,835 ("Bissery"). The Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to one